REMARKS

Upon entry of the present paper, claims 15-17, 22, and 23 will have been amended. The claims will have been amended to correct antecedent basis issues and informalities recited therein. Thus, claims 13-26 are pending in the present application, with claims 13 and 23 being in independent form.

Although this amendment is being submitted after the mailing of the Notice of Allowance, and although an amendment may not be made as a matter of right after the mailing of the Notice of Allowance, Applicants respectfully submit that entry of the present amendment is appropriate to eliminate the effect of minor inadvertent errors that were recently discovered. Applicants also submit that the amendment does not require any additional search, that only a cursory review of the record is necessary, and that the amendment does not involve materially additional work on the part of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendment under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.312.

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COMMENTS ON EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

In response to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance, mailed by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on August 30, 2010, along with the Notice of Allowance, Applicants wish to clarify the record with respect to the basis for patentability of the allowed claims in the present application. In this regard, while Applicants do not disagree with the Examiner's indications that certain identified features are not disclosed by the prior art references, as noted by the Examiner, Applicants further wish to clarify that the independent claims in the present application recite a particular combination of features, and the basis for patentability of each of these claims is further based on the particular totality of the features recited therein.

The dependent claims set forth additional bases for their patentability in accordance with their recited limitations as well as in accordance with the particular limitations of the respective base claims.

CONCLUSION

If there should be any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted, Takaharu TANAKA et al.

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